SENATOR GARY D. LeBEAU Third District

State Capitol, Room 110 Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

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State of Connecticut senate

DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Chair

Commerce Committee
Transportation Bonding Subcommittee
Vice Chair
Energy & Technology Committee
Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

Member

Legislative Management Committee

March 7, 2014

Senate Co-Chair Edward Meyer House Co-Chair Linda Gentile Environment Committee 300 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Environment Committee:

Testimony in support of: SB-306, AN ACT ALLOCATING FUNDING FOR THE PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER TO CERTAIN COMMUNITIES AND REAUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO PROVIDE POTABLE WATER TO COMMUNITIES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

HB-5420, AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDS FOR WATER SUPPLIES IN CONTAMINATED AREAS.

Good afternoon. I want to thank Co-Chairs Meyer and Gentile, Ranking Members Chapin and Shaban, as well as distinguished members of the Environment Committee for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 306 and HB 5420.

Last session the funding for the Potable Water Program was cut abruptly without any prior warning to the over 400 residents throughout the state whose water wells are contaminated with harmful chemicals including ethylene dibromide (EDB). The Potable Water Program which was administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection maintained water filtration and monitoring systems to ensure clean and safe drinking water. Now that the funding is cut, citizens are left to pay for the maintenance of the water filters and monitoring systems out of their own pocket.

In my town of East Windsor, over 100 households have wells that are deemed contaminated. I respectfully ask the committee to please restore the funding for the Potable Water Program for one additional year as we look for a rational long term solution to this alarming issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Gary D. LeBeau

State Senator, 3rd District

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